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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DESP. NO. 550

DATE December 29, 1953

REF : Emb Desp 533, December 21, 1953

DEC 29 1953

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION REC'D 1/3	DEPT. INFO OTHER
	AA-4	DC/R-2 GL-6 EUR/X-1 215A-10
		C/A-1 OSD-2 ARMY-3 NAVY-3

SUBJECT: Further Conflict and Scandal in the Renovación Nacional.

Further complicating the disorder into which the Renovación Nacional Administration party has fallen as a result of the factional fight between Jaime DIAZ Rozzotto, Secretary General of the Presidency, and Roberto GIRON Lemus, ex-First Vice-President of Congress (Emb. Desp 533, December 21, 1953), the Acting Civil Registrar of Guatemala on December 23 entered the new Executive Committee of Giron Lemus' partisans on the registry of legal political parties but saw this action promptly appealed to the National Electoral Board by Diaz Rozzotto whose partisans remain in physical possession of the party headquarters.

The newly inscribed RN Executive Council is headed by Deputy Héctor Fion GARMA as Secretary General and Giron Lemus as Secretary for Organization. Both have a reputation for Communist leanings, especially Giron Lemus who, when editor of the now defunct Diario de la Mañana, consistently parroted the Communist line. Neither, however, is known to be close to Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) nor, as yet, have they been prominently identified with Communist-front organizations. Both have been reported to be followers of ex-President Juan José ARAVALO. A list of the Executive Committee is enclosed.

The schism in the RN, which has thus far featured an invasion of party headquarters with a submachine gun in hand, has filled local newspapers with reports of a gangster-like atmosphere in Administration politics. A certain Edgar MADERA Ochoa, a follower of Diaz Rozzotto, was shot through the shoulder from a passing jeep while driving his car at night, and reported that he believed Fion Garma had been the gunman, a charge which the latter denied. The Fion Garma-Giron Lemus faction has accused Diaz Rozzotto of misappropriating party funds and of using his position at the head of President Arbenz' Executive Office to give orders to the Civil Registrar in order to entrench his faction. The Civil Registrar, Humberto HERNANDEZ Cobos, a member of RN, first refused to handle the Fion Garma-Giron Lemus faction's petition for inscription and then flew off to attend the Communist-front World Congress of Democratic Lawyers at Vienna, leaving

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his deputy, Gonzalo ZEA Ruano, in charge. The Communists, who first supported Diaz Rozzotto's faction, were reported by El Espectador to have switched to the new Executive Committee. Meanwhile, the National Electoral Board which is to consider the Diaz Rozzotto appeal has had its President, Alfonso ORANTES, removed from office by Congress for "notorious negligence." Under its new President, Edmundo GUERRERO, the National Electoral Board has accepted the Civil Registrar's inscription of the new Executive Committee and has indicated it will resolve appeals early in January.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:
List of RN Executive Committee

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PARTIDO RENOVACION NACIONAL

Executive Committee
Inscribed December 23, 1952

Secretary General	Hector Fion GARMA
Secretary for Organization	Roberto GIRON Lemus
Secretary for Finances	Flaminio BONILLA
Secretary for Publicity	Roberto CABRERA
Secretary for Agrarian Affairs	Rodolfo AGUILUS
Secretary for Workers' Affairs	Elfego H. GARCIA
Members:	Oscar JIMINEZ de Leon
	Oscar DIAZ, Jr.
	Francisco ROMERO Rodas
	Marco Antonio CHAVEZ Castillo
	Gabriel ALVARADO
	Rafael DIAZ Gomez
	Hector ROBLES Oliva

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